

Message Text

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AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 0362

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, US, TZ, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO AFRICA: BRIEFING PAPER:
BACKGROUND TO THE CELEBRATIONS IN ZANZIBAR

1. THE PAPER WAS PREPARED BY THE AMERICAN CONSULATE,

ZANZIBAR.

2. FEBRUARY 5, 1977, MARKS TWENTY YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDING
OF THE AFRO-SHIRAZI PARTY (ASP). FOR MORE THAN A YEAR
ZANZIBAR HAD BEEN PLANNING TO MARK THE EVENT WITH MAJOR
CELEBRATIONS. AT A RELATIVELY LATE DATE FEB 5 WAS SELECTED
AS THE DATE FOR THE DEMISE OF ASP AND THE MAINLAND'S
TANGANYIKA AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION (TANU) AND THE INAUGURATION
OF A NEW, UNITED TANZANIAN PARTY, CHAM CHA MAPINDUZI
(REVOLUTIONARY PARTY). AT AN EVENING CEREMONY ON FEB 5, THE
FLAGS OF THE PRESENT TWO PARTIES WILL BE LOWERED AND THE FLAG
OF THE NEW PARTY WILL BE RAISED.

3. THE AFRO-SHIRAZI PARTY HAD BEEN FORMED IN 1957, WHEN
ZANZIBAR WAS A BRITISH PROTECTORATE WITH AN ARAB SULTAN.
ASP SOUGHT TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE AFRICAN
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MAJORITY IN ZANZIBAR (INCLUDING THOSE - THE SHIRAZIS -
WHO CLAIM SOME MIDDLE-EASTERN DESCENT) AGAINST THE RULING
ARABS. IT WON A POPULAR MAJORITY IN ZANZIBAR'S LAST
ELECTIONS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, IN 1963, BUT FAILED
TO WIN THE MAJORITY OF SEATS IN THE ISLAND ASSEMBLY.
ZANZIBAR BECAME INDEPENDENT, UNDER ITS SULTAN, IN DECEMBER
1963, AND THE FOLLOWING JANUARY THE ASP LED A BLOODY REVOLT

IN WHICH THE SULTAN AND MOST OF THE ARABS WERE EXPELLED AND THE ASP TOOK POWER UNDER ITS LEADER ABEID KARUME. IN APRIL 1964, ZANZIBAR JOINED MAINLAND TANGANYIKA TO FORM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, BUT RETAINED ITS OWN PARTY AND FULL INTERNAL AUTONOMY. IN 1972, KARUME WAS ASSASSINATED AND SUCCEEDED BY HIS DEPUTY, ABOUD JUMBE.

4. ZANZIBAR DID NOT SEEK THE MERGER OF ASP AND TANU NOR THE END OF THE AFRO-SHIRAZI PARTY, WHICH HAS BEEN ZANZIBAR'S DOMINANT POLITICAL INSTITUTION SINCE 1964. ABOUD JUMBE GOVERNED ZANZIBAR THROUGH THE PARTY AND IT HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH THE ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT. IT IS WELL-ORGANIZED AT ALL LEVELS AND PERVADES ZANZIBAR LIFE.

5. PRESIDENT NYERERE MADE A SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1975 THAT TANU AND ASP SHOULD MERGE, AN EVENT PROVIDED FOR IN THE TANZANIAN NATIONAL CONSTITUTION. CONFLICTING EMOTIONS COMPLICATED ZANZIBAR'S RESPONSE, BUT IT WAS REALIZED THAT A "NO" ANSWER WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE MORE POWERFUL MAINLAND. ZANZIBAR'S EVENTUAL POSITION, A LEGAL BRIEF WHICH ACCEPTED THE MERGER WHILE CAREFULLY RE-DEFINING ZANZIBAR'S AUTONOMY AND ERECTING NEW BARRIERS TO MAINLAND ENCROACHMENT, SIMILARLY COULD NOT BE REJECTED BY THE MAINLAND.

6. THE NEW PARTY IS CONSTITUTIONALLY SUPREME, BUT IT CANNOT TAKE DECISIONS AFFECTING THE GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR WITHOUT ZANZIBAR'S CONSENT. JUMBE HAS ALREADY RETURNED THE GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR FROM THE ASP TO THE ZANZIBAR REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, WHERE POWER RESTED DURING THE KARUME YEARS.
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CHAMA CHA MAPINDUZI WILL OCCUPY THE SIDELINES IN ZANZIBAR.

7. THERE WILL BE MIXED EMOTIONS ON FEB 5TH. THE AFRO-SHIRAZI PARTY, ZANZIBAR'S "MOTHER", IS TO BE BURIED. ONE OF THE ASP'S LAST CAMPAIGNS HAS BEEN TO GET EVERYONE TO LEARN THE WORDS OF A NEW PARTY SONG, "AFRO MAMA", AS THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CELEBRATIONS. IT IS CLEARLY A SONG OF LAMENT, NOT A PAEAN TO THE NEW PARTY.
SPAIN

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